

# Adult Literacy Contact Centre



1-800-663-1293

1-604-684-0624

S E P T E M B E R 1989

## NEWS

### ***Ministry of Advanced Education & Job Training Update***

818 Broughton St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

The approval of 25 cost shared literacy projects was announced jointly by Federal Multiculturalism and Citizenship Minister Gerry Weiner. For more details about specific projects contact: Norma Kidd

Provincial Literacy Coordinator  
387-6189

The "Access for All" initiatives in B.C. has resulted in 100% increase in the following:

- financial assistance to literacy students
- smaller class sizes
- more student spaces.

The Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee has hired Doug McCall to coordinate publicity for B.C. in preparations for International Literacy Year. Doug's official title is Awareness Program Director.

The Draft Report of the Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee is now ready for circulation.

The report comes in two forms.

1. A complete document outlining
  - background information
  - a summary of recent research
  - a list of recommendations on issues such as continuity of programming, meeting the needs of those least literate
  - leadership and policy
2. An Executive Summary which provides

- contextual information
  - lists of all recommendations
- some suggestions for an adult literacy policy for B.C.

Patty Bossort has been hired by the Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee to hear your responses to the Draft Report. Consultation meetings have been organized around the province. A schedule of consultations is found on page 2. If you would like a copy of the report or more information about the upcoming consultations call:

The Contact Centre, or  
Patty Bossort  
358-2391  
Fax 358-7900

**The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of British Columbia. Its main purpose is to provide information, support and encouragement to potential Adult Basic Education learners who may be thinking about upgrading their skills.**

**#622-510 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1L8**

## NEWS

**Literacy and the Workplace**  
 "Learning at Work", a meeting called by Gwen Armstrong on July 9th, was attended by representatives from CEIC, business, government and education. The discussion centred on workplace upskilling; the training needs of workers, employers' requirements for retraining workers and skill-upgrading programs for workers. A report of that meeting, including related information on some workplace programs which are

available in the province, can be obtained by calling the Adult Literacy Contact Centre or the writer, Shirley Abrams, at 263-5922.

**Laubach Literacy of Canada**  
 The new office of the B.C. Fieldworker, Marilyn Wilson, is: #8-1250 Homer St. Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2Y5  
 Telephone: (604) 669-0388  
 Educational Resources Ltd. remains the distributor of New

Readers Press. The LLC B.C. Fieldworker's mandate is the establishment of literacy councils with the current community of adult education in British Columbia.

**New Literacy Programs**  
 Kwantlen College is now offering Basic Literacy Programs (0-5 level) at the Richmond and Newton campus.

The Vancouver School Board is opening a new learning centre Oct. 2

## SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATIONS

| Location                             | Date                   | Meeting Place                       |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cranbrook                            | Oct 18<br>1-4          | East Kootenay College               |
| Kelowna                              | Oct. 19<br>1-4         | Okanagan College                    |
| Terrace                              | Oct. 23<br>1-4         | Northwest College                   |
| Vancouver                            | Oct. 24<br>9-12 or 1-4 | TBA                                 |
| New Westminster,<br>Richmond, Surrey | Oct. 25<br>1-4         | Kwantlen College<br>Richmond Campus |
| Abbotsford                           | Oct. 26<br>1-4         | Fraser Valley College               |
| Victoria                             | Oct. 26<br>1-4         | Camosun College                     |
| Prince George                        | Oct. 30<br>1-4         | College of New Caledonia            |

Hastings Adult Learning Centre  
1909 E. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, B.C.  
253-4907

For information on programs, call  
Tom Atkinson.

Vancouver School Board Adult  
Learning Centres require volun-  
teer tutors to assist students with  
their upgrading. In addition, the  
centres wish to maintain a re-  
source list of potential instructors  
and teaching assistants. Please  
contact the centre nearest you for  
further information:

Carnegie Adult Learning Centre  
401 Main Street  
Telephone: 665-3010  
(Ask for Tom)

Hastings Adult Learning Centre  
1909 East Hastings St.  
Telephone: 253-4907  
(Ask for Tom)

Opens October 2, 1989)  
John Oliver Adult Learning  
Centre

530 East 41st Ave.  
Telephone: 324-2414  
(Ask for Merilee)

Roberts Adult Learning Centre  
1666 Comox St.  
Telephone: 662-8422  
(Ask for Noreen)

### **Project Literacy B.C. News**

An advisory committee made up  
of representatives from each of  
the seven Project Literacy chap-  
ters in the province have met to  
review information collected from  
around the province to date by  
Mary Alice Johnson, the Project  
Literacy B.C. Coordinator. This  
committee has drawn up three  
subcommittees to draft proposals  
for PLBC membership,  
constitution, and relationship with  
ABEABC and the Adult Literacy  
Contact Centre. The advisory

committee will meet again on  
November 3rd to review the draft  
proposals which will then go out  
to each of the Project Literacy  
chapters for review and approval.  
If you would like to have your  
views heard on these questions,  
please phone Mary Alice at 642-  
3671. (You may call collect.)

The Project Literacy B.C. Advi-  
sory Committee has nominated  
Hendrik Hoskema as a representa-  
tive to the Movement for Cana-  
dian Literacy to sit in this position  
until our first annual general  
meeting early in 1990. At that  
meeting a permanent representa-  
tive will be elected.

Mary Alice Johnson will be  
meeting with the Williams Lake  
Project Literacy Society on  
October 10th to get input on the  
function, membership, and  
structure of the provincial coali-  
tion. If you would like to attend  
this meeting, please phone Debby  
Damare at 398-7285 for time and  
place. A similar meeting will take  
place with the Victoria Project  
Literacy on October 30th at 9:00  
am in the Board Room of School  
District 62, 556 Boleskine,  
Victoria.

**Project Literacy Victoria**  
On October 16th from 9:00 to  
11:00 am. at the Open Learning  
Agency at 838 Fort Street,  
Rigoberto Silve, Director of  
International Relations, Ministry  
of Education, Nicaragua, will  
speak about Nicaragua's First  
National Literacy Crusade of 1980  
in which 400,000 people were  
taught to read in five months. The  
illiteracy level was brought to  
12.9% from 52% at that time.  
Rigoberto Silva was a multilevel

primary teacher suspended by the  
dictatorship in 1974. He was  
active as a trade union leader in  
the National Association of  
Nicaraguan Educators and organ-  
ized the literacy reader program in  
1979.

Peter Gzowski, the popular host  
of CBC radio's **MORNINGSIDE**,  
hosted the first annual Peter  
Gzowski invitational Golf Tour-  
nament September 29th at the  
Victoria Golf Club. 112 golfers  
participated and in excess of  
\$15,000 was raised in support of  
Project Literacy Victoria and its  
programs. Recently Project Liter-  
acy Victoria moved to fund and  
administer the Learning Network,  
a volunteer tutor program origi-  
nally established by the Victoria  
READ Society. In addition to the  
proceeds from the golf tourna-  
ment, the Greater Victoria School  
Board has approved an allocation  
of \$14,000 and Project Literacy  
Victoria hopes to receive match-  
ing funds from the Ministry of  
Advanced Education and Job  
Training and the Secretary of  
State.

### **M.C.L.**

The Movement for Canadian  
Literacy will hold their Annual  
General Meeting at Westbury  
Hotel in Toronto on Sat. Oct. 21.  
For more information contact.  
Cindy Onstad-875-6111.

**If you would like to  
receive the  
monthly  
newsletter, please  
let us know by  
calling the centre.**

## ADULT LITERACY CONTACT CENTRE UPDATE

### What learners told us in August

A number of learners praised the approachability of instructors and their effort to encourage learners and commented, for example, that "They made me feel I could do it" and "it is very important for adults not to feel that they're stupid. They never give you any indication you can't do it."

In relation to assessments, a

learner said the instructor made her feel that, "when you do the testing, its not like you failed."

A learner also expressed her appreciation that an instructor at the program in which she was registered phoned her on the day classes were to begin and told her they were looking forward to her coming.

### Summary of Initial Calls by Learners or Friends/Family of Learner in August 1989

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Vancouver       | 12 |
| Langley         | 1  |
| Surrey          | 7  |
| Victoria        | 2  |
| Burnaby         | 4  |
| Coquitlam       | 3  |
| New Westminster | 3  |
| Abbotsford      | 2  |
| Total           | 34 |
| By program      |    |
| ESL             | 1  |
| ABE             | 33 |

### Summary of Initial Calls by Volunteers in August 1989

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Vancouver       | 1 |
| North Vancouver | 1 |
| Burnaby         | 1 |
| Vernon          | 1 |
| Total           | 4 |

### Barriers to learning

Classes which are too large in which "Everybody learns at a different level and the instructors are teaching at one level."

Non availability of programs during July-Aug and difficulty in obtaining program information during the summer.

Lack of daycare.

Anxiety about attending classes.

Frustration on the part of learning disabled adults. One learning disabled adult said, "School never did anything for me."

## CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Due to the widespread interest in the library conference, the B.C. Library Association has added another location to the agenda:

Prince Rupert

October 28

Local contact person:

Jane Blackett,

627-1345

Preparations are also being made to hold a workshop in Kelowna.

Cost of conference:

BCLA member - \$50

Non-members - \$65

Students/unemployed - \$35

(Lunch is included)

A variety of useful literacy materials will be available at all conference locations

For further information contact:  
Linda Kalman or Thomas Quigley  
at 731-9607

### Project Literacy Greater

#### Vancouver

Chairperson: Linda Forsythe

Contact at Douglas College

Box 2503 New Westminster, B.C.

V3L 5B2

Phone: 438-2344 local 350

### Project Literacy Kelowna

President: Betty Knox

P.O. Box 1886 Station A

Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 8P2

Phone: 762-2163

P.L. Kelowna is still seeking funding.

Meetings are held the last Monday of every month.

### Project Literacy Chilliwack

Chairperson: Gail Newby

Phone: 858-4913

The first general meeting will be held on October 11, 1989 at the Chilliwack Public Library.

## PROJECT LITERACY UPDATE

**Project Literacy Parksville**  
 Contact: Linda Perkins  
 Parksville Campus, Memorial  
 Building, Second Floor  
 Box 42, 141 Memorial Avenue,  
 Parksville, B.C. V0R 2S0  
 Phone: 248-2096

**Project Literacy Victoria**  
 Contact: Linda Mitchell  
 Phone: 388-4721  
 R.E.A.D. Society  
 720 Linden Avenue  
 Victoria, B.C. V8V 4G7

**Project Literacy Abbotsford**  
 Contact: Wendy Watson  
 Phone: 853-7441  
 Fraser Valley College  
 33844 King Rd. R.R.#2  
 Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 4N2  
 Two projects are in the works:  
 • looking for drop-in centre space  
 • planning to start up literacy and  
 the workplace  
 • students performed "Marks on  
 Paper"

**Project Literacy Nanaimo**  
 Contact: Inger Weber  
 Phone: 758-a2743  
 120 Locksley Place, Nanaimo,  
 B.C. V9T 4S5

**Project Literacy Williams Lake  
 Society**  
 Contact: Debbie DeMare  
 Phone: 398-7285  
 718 Western Avenue, Williams  
 Lake, B.C. V2G 2J3



## RESOURCES

### **Vancouver Public Library ABE checklist**

If you would like a copy of useful  
 literacy materials that VPL has  
 compiled contact:

Omar Peters  
 Carnegie Library  
 Purchasing Dept.  
 665-3386

Cost of Bibliography - \$5.00  
 The bibliography will be updated  
 annually.

### **Williams Lake Project Literacy Society**

Project Literacy Williams Lake  
 and the Cariboo Health Unit, with  
 funding from the Ministry of  
 Health, have recently published a  
 booklet called,

"Good Eating - How to Plan Good  
 Food" for low literacy levels. The  
 booklet is divided into 3 sections

- Canada's Food Guide-  
 Simplified
- Junk Food topics
- Practical exercises on  
 nutrition.

This teaching tool is free of  
 charge (except postage).

Contact in writing:

Debbie DeMare  
 Williams Lake Project  
 Literacy Society  
 718 Western Ave.  
 Williams Lake, B.C.  
 V2G 2J3 398-7285

Nova Scotia is compiling a  
 collection of learner produced  
 materials to be included in new  
 Regional Resource Centres for  
 tutors and learners. If you have  
 any learner-produced materials

including newsletters, booklets  
 and stories that you would like to  
 share with the literacy movement  
 in Nova Scotia, please send to:

Michael Bramah  
 Literacy Office  
 Dept. of Advanced Education  
 and Job Training  
 P.O. Box 2086, Station M  
 Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 B3J 3B7

### **Adult Literacy Volunteer Tu- tor Program Evaluation Kit**

This evaluation kit is intended as a  
 self-study evaluation instrument  
 for programs wishing to examine  
 their practices and determine  
 means of improvement. The kit  
 includes a user guide, and 3  
 evaluation instruments, one for  
 the program, the tutor and the  
 learner. The kit was coordinated  
 and written by Audrey Thomas  
 for the Ministry of Advanced  
 Education and Job Training and  
 the National Literacy Secretariat.  
 If you would like to purchase a  
 copy contact:

Provincial Curriculum  
 Publications  
 Marketing Department  
 Open Learning Agency  
 P.O. Box 94,000  
 Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2A2  
 Telephone: 660-2190  
 Toll free in B.C.:  
 1-800-663-9711  
 FAX - 660-2272  
 Order # VA0102  
 Cost \$ 6.70 plus postage.

*continued on page 6*

## Next Project Literacy Greater Vancouver Meeting

**October 27, 9 AM**

**Boardroom, VCC/KEC Campus  
1155 E. Broadway, Vancouver**

### Agenda

- Voting for a new executive
- membership forms will be available

### Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

**Editor:**

Cherie Layne

**Design and Layout:**

Lower Mainland  
Society for Literacy,  
publishers of **Voices**  
magazine

*Continued from page 5*

### "our own Words"

The first issue of "our own Words" has recently been published and is now available from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training. The magazine is a collection of writings by Adult Basic Education Students of B.C. The writings begin at the Intermediate level and progress through to the Advanced and Provincial levels.

If you would like more information contact:  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
& Job Training  
818 Broughton St.  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4  
Telephone: 387-6176

The ALCC would like to welcome Nancy Richard, our new new secretary.

### VOICES

The latest issue of **VOICES** magazine has just been released.

To order copies, fill out the subscription form below.

If you have any notices for upcoming newsletters, please send information to **ALCC** before the last day of each month.

## Voices

*New Writers for New Readers*

### Subscription Request Form

Please send a one year subscription to **Voices** magazine (Published 3 times a year).

Total number of subscriptions: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a cheque or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_ in full payment.

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- 1 subscription @ \$12.00/yr
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Name/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov / State \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal / Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your cheque or money order to **Voices**; a publication of the Lower Mainland Society for Literacy and Employment, 14525 110A Avenue, Surrey, B.C., Canada, V3R 2B4. ☎(604)584-5424